Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 02719 151742 Z

64
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 PRS-01 NEA-06 L-02 IO-03

RSR-01 /067 W
---------- 068437
R 151650 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1874
INFO USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 2719

DEPARTMENT PASS CAIRO

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TS, AG
SUBJECT: BOUMEDIENE PROPOSES ALGERIAN- TUNISIAN UNION

REF: TUNIS 2631 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. THERE WAS APPARENTLY MORE TO THE BOUMEDIENE-BOURGUIBA MEETING MAY 12 AND 12 THAN MEETS THE EYE. WE HAVE NOW HEARD FROM GOT THAT BOUMEDIENE MADE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL TO BOURGUIBA FOR ALGERIAN- TUNISIAN UNION " AS SOON AS POSSIBLE". BOURGUIBA DID NOT REJECT PROPOSAL, AND GOT NOW REFLECTING ON IT. END SUMMARY.

2. FONOFF SECRETARY GENERAL MESTIRI FIRST TOLD ME ABOUT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 02719 151742 Z

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

BOUMEDIENE' S PROPOSAL AFTER PRIMIN NOUIRA' S DINNER FOR ROBERT MCNAMARA ON MAY 14. MESTIRI SAID THAT TUNISIANS WERE SURPRISED AT OFFER, BUT CONSIDERED IT SERIOUS: IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE SUMMIT AT LE KEF HAD BEEN QUALIFIED AS " HISTORIC". MESTIRI PROVIDED NO DETAILS, BUT NOTED THAT TUNISIANS ARE GUARDING INFORMATION CLOSELY BECAUSE BOUMEDIENE' S OFFER DID NOT INCLUDE MOROCCO; THIS IT WAS SENSITIVE SUBJECT IN TERMS OF MAGHREBIAN UNITY.

3. FONMIN MASMOUDI PROVIDED MORE DETAILS DURING MY MEETING WITH HIM MAY 15. MASMOUDI SAID THAT BOUMEDIENE' S OFFER WAS IN ABOUT SAME TERMS THAT QADHAFI HAD PROPOSED UNION WITH TUNISIA PREVIOUSLY. MASMOUDI SAID THE OFFER WAS NOW " AT THE LEVEL OF REFLECTION" WITHIN GOT. IN ANY EVENT, THIS TIME BOURGUIBA DID NOT SAY NO.

4. MASMOUDI FURTHER PLACED THE MATTER IN CONTEXT OF TUNISIA' S AND ALGERIA' S REAL CONCERNES ABOUT MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS ON ONE HAND AND ABOUT INTERNAL SITUATION IN MOROCCO ON THE OTHER. HE SAID THAT GOT BELIEVES MIDDLE EAST WILL BE " ROTTEN" FOR A LONG TIME TO COME. IF LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN UNION ACTUALLY COMES ABOUT ON SEPTEMBER 1 (MASMOUDI STILL DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WILL), THE " ROT" WILL MOVE FURTHER WEST. AT SAME TIME, MASMOUDI STRESSED THAT ALGERIANS WERE VERY WORRIED ABOUT INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN MOROCCO, AND THAT TUNISIA SHARED THESE CONCERNS. TUNISIA ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT SOVIET- MOROCCAN RAPPROCHEMENT. SUBJECT OF MOROCCO OCCUPIED MUCH OF BOUMEDIENE- BOURGUIBA CONVERSATIONS. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE JOINT DEMARCHE TO HASSAN. GOT ALSO CONCERNED THAT MOROCCO SIMPLY HAS NOT EVOLVED AS OTHER ARAB STATES HAVE. BOURGUIBA HIMSELF REGARDS MOROCCAN SOCIETY AS " FEUDAL". MASMOUDI SAID THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW HOW THE SITUATION WOULD TURN OUT.

5. IN ANY EVENT, BOUMEDIENE' S OFFER OF UNION SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED MOROCCO AT THIS TIME. BOUMEDIENE THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS MAURITANIA MIGHT JOIN UNION LATER, AND NOTION OF LIBYA ALSO MOVING CLOSER -- DEPENDING UPON DEVELOPMENTS -- WAS NOT RULED OUT. (MASMOUDI NOTED THAT PRIMIN JALLUD WOULD VISIT TUNIS MAY 29-30; GOT WOULD ONCE MORE SEEK TURN LARG AWAY FROM SEPTEMBER 1 UNION.)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

6 MASMOUDI SAID THERE WERE MANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN ARAB WORLD AND NORTH AFRICA, AND MANY NEW AND IMPORTANT THINGS TO THINK ABOUT. HE SAID TUNISIA COULD PERHAPS NOT ALWAYS CONSIDER ITSELF IN ISOLATION FROM ITS NEIGHBORS AND IMPROTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN ARAB WORLD.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

7. COMMENT: WHILE BOURGUIBA WOULD DISMISS ANY PROPOSAL FOR IMMEDIATE UNION AS UNREALISTIC, THIS DOESN' T SEEM TO BE WHAT BOUMEDIENE INTENDED. ACCORDING TO MESTIRI, BOURGUIBA INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO WORK TOWARD OBJECTIVE OF UNION IN STEP- BY- STEP APPROACH, TO BE ACHIEVED WITHIN ONE GENERATION. THIS WOULD SEEM TO REFLECT FAIRLY TUNISIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD SUCH MATTERS. MOREOVER, TUNISIANS KNOW WHAT BOUMEDIENE IS NO QADHAFI, PROPOSAL FOR UNION FROM THIS SOURCE DESERVES MORE ATTENTION AND FACT GOT HAS NOT IMMEDIATELY REJECTED IDEA IS ITSELF SIGNIFICANT.
RELPH

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TUNIS02719
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730544/aaaajemz.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 73 TUNIS 2631 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <04-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980212
Subject: BOUMEDIENE PROPOSES ALGERIAN- TUNISIAN UNION
TAGS: PFOR, AG, TS
To: AF
ALGIERS
LONDON
MADRID
NOUAKCHOTT
PARIS
RABAT

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

SECSTATE WASHDC
TRIPOLI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005